

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 291527Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8373

INFO CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, CH, UR

SUBJ: PRAVDA PRAISES CREW OF HELICOPTER DOWNED IN
PRC

REF: MOSCOW 5429 AND PREVIOUS

1. AS WIRE SERVICES HAVE REPORTED, PRAVDA APRIL 28
PUBLISHES FEATURE BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHERTKOV
DATELINED "EASTERN BORDER DISTRICT" WHICH PURPORTS TO
RECONSTRUCT MERCY MISSION OF SOVIET HELICOPTER THAT
STRAYED INTO CHINESE TERRITORY MARCH 14. STORY
EMPHASIZES URGENCY OF EVACUATING BLEEDING SOLDIER WHO
COULD NOT BE REACHED QUICKLY BY LAND TRANSPORTATION.

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IT STATES FLATLY THAT NO INTELLIGENCE EQUIPMENT WAS ON
BOARD HELICOPTER AND CLAIMS THAT HELICOPTER WAS IN

COMMUNICATION ONLY WITH CIVILIAN AIRPORTS AT BURAN AND ALEKSEYEVKA. THREE CREWMEN ARE PORTRAYED AS SELFLESS RESCUERS WHO WERE BUFFETED BY WINDS IN MOUNTAIN CANYONS AND ENTERED PRC AIRSPACE AFTER BECOMING DISORIENTED. STORY IDENTIFIES THREE CREWMEN AS CAPT. ALEKSANDR KURBATOV, LT. ALEKSANDR USKOV AND JR. LT. VLADIMIR BUCHEL'NIKOV.

2. COMMENT: PLACEMENT OF STORY IN SUNDAY PRAVDA ON BACK PAGE IMMEDIATELY ABOVE SPORTS SECTION ENSURES WIDE READERSHIP. WE WOULD GUESS THAT DECISION TO AIR FURTHER DETAILS OF SOVIET VERSION OF HELICOPTER INCIDENT REFLECTS SOVIET CONCLUSION THAT DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO SECURE RELEASE OF CREWMEN HAVE FAILED AND THAT CREWMEN MAY FACE TRIAL FOR ESPIONAGE.
DUBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, ESPIONAGE, PRESS COMMENTS, HELICOPTERS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, TRIALS, NEWSPAPERS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1974
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005